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Cont Copy

editorial

AN OLD MAJOR TRICK

THE 8-point statement giving clarifications on a number of points in the 10-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam presented by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam at its 84th session has been received by world's progressives as an important peace initiative and an effort to get the Paris Conference out of the deadlock created by the United States. Even in US political circles, there have been many who consider it a "good" initiative, and "proposals that cannot be discarded." US and world opinion has urged that the US government give "careful consideration" to this new offer of the PRG (e.g. Senators Muskie and Fulbright) and respond seriously to it.

BUT Nixon is still standing to his guns; he is still resorting to crafty tricks while noisily clamouring for "peace" and doing his best to widen and prolong his war of aggression in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. His October 7 speech has provided a new proof of his double-dealing and his mulish and war-like position.

A past master in propaganda, the US president termed the five proposals he made in his speech a "major new initiative for peace," one that "can open the door to an enduring peace in Indochina." But any person of good will can realise that all these five proposals are far from meeting the urgent requirements of the present situation in Indochina and the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese, American and world peoples.

Regarding the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam a crucial point for the restoration of peace in Viet Nam—Nixon purposely dodged the setting of a timetable for troop pullout as called for by the SVNR PRG; instead he asked for "negotiations" on this issue on the basis of US "principles." One can find here again the US shopworn, absurd claim for "mutual troop withdrawal" which puts on an equal footing the aggressors and those who oppose aggression and which lays down conditions for US cessation of the war and withdrawal of troops. The deep root and immediate cause of the present atrocious war in South Viet Nam, as everyone agrees, is the aggression by the United States with a half-a-million strong Expeditionary Corps. Therefore if the war in South Viet Nam is really to be ended and peace restored, the United States should cease its aggression and respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, and totally and unconditionally pull out US and satellite soldiery from South Viet Nam before a time limit as suggested in the Sept. 17 statement by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. In shirking this, Nixon actually eluded a genuine peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem.

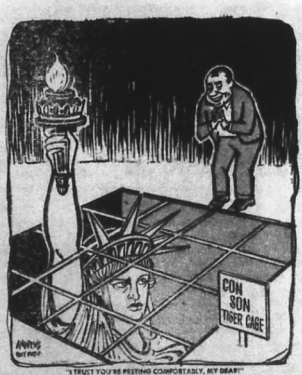
As far as the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people is concerned, Nixon insisted that the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta be kept in office in the face of the legitimate wish of the South Vietnamese who have been pressing for an administration without that triumvirate, one which is ready to engage in serious negotiations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government. His suggestion also clashed the NFL and PRG proposal for the formation of a Provisional Government of broad coalition responsible for the holding of truly free and democratic general elections in South Viet Nam. Nixon again rang the changes: "We stand firm for the right of all the South Vietnamese people to determine for themselves the kind of government they want" but in fact he refused to discard the Thieu-Ky-Khiem gang of US-fostered traitors and dictators who are but an instrument for US aggression. In so doing Nixon set his face against the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and erected a major obstacle to a peaceful settlement in South Viet Nam.

Thus, on the two fundamental problems whose solution is vital to a sound solution to the South Viet Nam issue, Nixon was still holding to an obstinate, aggressive stand camouflaged underneath words and his offer was nothing but a move to placate an ebullient anti-war movement in the United States. Indeed, Nixon's five points were no "main new initiative for peace," but a new major obstacle to the Paris Conference and a ploy to divert public attention from the pursuance of US "Vietnamization" in South Viet Nam, of its aggression against Cambodia and Laos, in the hope to secure a position of strength on the battlefield and at the Conference table, and

(Continued on page 3)

Nixon-type freedom

Photo-Montage from Bulletin
"Pour la victoire du peuple vietnamien"
(For the victory of the Vietnamese people)



"I TRUST YOU'RE RESTING COMFORTABLY, MY DEAR!"

Drawing from Daily World

US FORCES HAVE ARRESTED AND TO

A letter from Don Luce

The US go held jointly r prison system

Saigon, August 30, 1970

Dear Friends,

ATTACHED is a letter written by Vietnamese women whose children are in jail. I have met and talked with these women. They are mostly very poor, supplementing their family's income by selling in the market-place or working as laborers. They want to know what has happened to their children since they were arrested.

"Please help me to find out if my child is alive or dead," one woman ashed with tears running down her cheeks. "I must know what happened to him before I die."

Eighty women, all who have children in jail as political prisoners, met from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on the night of August 27th to try and find a way to get decent treatment for their children. With them was Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, an internationally known lawyer with a PhD from Columbia University, who has herself spent over two years in jail for speaking out for peace. The women decided to take advantage of Vice-President Agnew's visit to write him a letter asking for basic prison reform. "The United States must share the responsibility for torture and injustice within the Vietnamese prison system," the women said. After all, their children had been arrested by police paid by the US (the US spends more than twice the amount on "Public Safety" as it does on education in its economic program to Viet Nam); the tear gas and other tools of repression are "made in USA"; the US-financed Phoenix Program and US military operations are responsible for the arrests of many of those imprisoned. When the women have talked with the few who have been released from the prisons, they are told of the American advisors in the prisons. The women wrote Vice-President Agnew: "The role of the American advisors should be to improve the prisoners' conditions, not merely to watch the tortures done to our children who suffer from hunger, thirst, disease and survive in agony in jail."

But they could not meet Vice-President Agnew — or even get their letter to him before he left Viet Nam. When they went to the US Embassy on Friday morning, the American MPs would not let them into the Embassy. No one could enter the Embassy because of Agnew's trip. The MPs would not telephone anyone inside to come out and meet the women. Nor would they accept the letter and take it inside for the women. "No is no," one of the MPs told Mrs. Thanh.

"Whenever the US officials come to Viet Nam, they talk only with the government officials and not with the people," said Mrs. Thanh. "If the US wants to understand the aspirations of the Vietnamese, it must talk to the people."

At 3 p.m. an officer at the US Embassy received the attached letter from the women whose children are in jail. But the Vice-President had left four hours earlier. When I met the women at 7 p.m. that night after they had learned that their letter had not reached Vice-President Agnew before he left, they were sad and angered. They do not believe that Agnew will ever read the letter. They had tried to tell the story of what is happening to their children, but failed. I promised them that I would tell my friends in the US and Europe about their letter. Now I ask you to let as many people as you can know about the day the mothers whose children are imprisoned could not meet with the Vice-President.

Sincerely,
DON LUCE

Letter from the Committee of Women Action For The Right To Live to Mr Spiro Agnew, Vice-President of the United States of America.

"... We are the Mothers of the political prisoners detained in the various prisons of South Viet Nam. None of our children is convicted of crime of robbery. All of them are being imprisoned because they have dared spoken of Peace and Independence, a most profound desire of all the Vietnamese People after years and years of war. Our children were arrested and barbarously tortured. They have been denied food and drink, even medicine when they are sick. The limited amount of medicine provided to the prisoners by the American aid have been continuously smuggled or stolen by the prisons' authorities. We only learn about the terrible living conditions of our children through statements by recently released prisoners and report made by the US Representatives ANDERSON and HAWKINS after their investigation of Con Son Tiger Cages and the living conditions of the prisoners.

However, up to the present time, we still have not been allowed to visit or keep in touch with our children despite renewed requests. We have no means to send food to them at all. Only one exception has been given to those mothers who were allowed to visit their children once on August 25th, 1970 at the Chi Hoa prison. We have witnessed our children's health situation. After continuous beatings, their bodies were swollen; when they were allowed to see us, they could not even walk and had to be helped by two guards. Such is the actual result of our government system of repression.

Most of our children were tried by the Military Field Court, a Court which was held unconstitutionally by the Supreme Court. Yet, our children have not been released. Some of them have never been tried at all.

As a father, as a leader, you are coming to Viet Nam to understand our people's aspirations for Peace and Justice. We, the Vietnamese mothers, want to speak out the terrible sufferings of thousands of mothers who have their children being tortured and ill-treated in jail. We wish to directly inform you about the crimes committed under the prison system of South Viet Nam.

A village in Giong Trom district (Ben Tre) devastated by US bombs and toxic chemicals.

RTURED MANY VIETNAMESE FARMERS

vernment must be esponsible for the in South Viet Nam

You would have to agree that the US Government somehow has to be held jointly responsible for the prison system in South Viet Nam, since:

— The police forces which arrest and repress our children are being paid by the Americans.

— The equipment used by the Police to repress, torture and jail our children are part of the US aid. The tear gas, the rockets used to repress them are "made in USA." We actually witnessed the terrible repression being carried out right in front of the US Embassy when we and our foreign friends demonstrated against the prison system on July 11th, 1970.

— The Phoenix operation, the result of which a great number of "suspected" Vietnamese people have been arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned directly by American authorities in Saigon.

— In the military operations, US and Allied Forces have arrested and tortured many innocent Vietnamese farmers at the Intelligence Agencies or turned them to the South Vietnamese government for further detention without any "due process of law."

— Our children witness the presence of American Advisors at the prisons. They know that more aid is being given to build more and bigger prisons.

Before such evidence it would be hard to deny and just say that the US is not responsible for the prison system of South Viet Nam. The role of the American advisors should be to improve the prisoners' conditions, not merely to watch the tortures done to our children who suffer from hunger, thirst, disease, and survive in agony in jail..."

The women members of the Committee of Women Action For the Right To Live ask to release immediately their children, abolish immediately the "tiger cages," "cattle cage," mysterious caves, separated cells, discipline cells and rooms used for inhumane tortures, not only at Con Son but also in all the prisons throughout South Viet Nam. The requests of these women bear also on the improvement on prison system as follows:

— All prisoners should be provided with proper food and drink, and should be given appropriate care when they are sick,

— The prisoners whose jail terms have expired must be immediately released; the old, sick, and underage prisoners should be released,

— Those prisoners who have not been tried should be released or put on further trial by a constitutional, civil court,

— Those prisoners who were tried by the Military Field Courts should be released or retried by a civil court if they are supposed to be guilty...

The letter concluded:

"We also ask you to urge the American authorities to immediately end their acts of cruelty toward political prisoners and instruct them about our above-mentioned requests.

In short, we want our children to have enough food, drink and medicine; their physical as well as moral life to be decently dealt with. They are not criminals but young courageous people who dared to stand up and voice for Peace. **Peace is the deepest aspiration of all the Vietnamese people.** Therefore, our children who are struggling for the cause of Peace and have been arrested and barbarously tortured should be considered as 'PEACE HEROES'..."

The letter is signed by 21 women, representatives of the Mothers whose children are being detained in the various prisons throughout South Viet Nam, in the "Tiger Cages," in the Disciplinary Cells... without trial or tried by unconstitutional Courts, or have served their jail-term or have been arrested during military operations by the US, puppets and satellites.

NEW DEVALUATION OF SAIGON CURRENCY

ON October 3, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique again cut the rate of exchange of the piastre from 118 piastres to a dollar down to 275 piastres.

Over the past ten years the Saigon puppet administration has three times devaluated the piastre from 35 piastres to a dollar to 60 piastres (1964) then to 118 piastres (1966) and now to 275 piastres.

Many Western new agencies and the Saigon press pointed out that the current reform had been decided under US pressure. According to the *Su That* of Saigon on August 31, US Vice President Agnew when visiting Saigon in August handed to Nguyen Van Thieu a cheque of 150 million piastres on condition that the Saigon puppet administration would devalue the piastre.

The Saigon press also foresaw that following the present move the currency would lose more of its value, and prices would sky-rocket, to the detriment of the population in the towns and areas still under US-Quisling control.

The Saigon daily *Dan Y* of October 4 reported that "prices have begun rising," "housewives are facing pricehikes on meat, eggs, fish..." "the volume of goods has dwindled", "traders are refusing to sell their goods in anticipation of further price rises; the dollar is rated 520 piastres in the black market", etc... Reflecting this situation an *AFP* correspondent in Saigon bluntly said on October 4 that "the rate of exchange which is said will ease the current economic crisis is not welcomed".

Opposition deputies said: "It is the foreigners (the Americans-*AFP*, October 4, 1970) and not the Vietnamese who profit by the move." The devaluation of the piastre by the Saigon puppet clique will further weaken its lop-sided economy, the deep source and direct cause of the evil being US aggression in South Viet Nam.

AN OLD MAJOR TRICK

(Continued from page 1)

compel the Indochinese people to accept US diktats.

Nixon has moreover proposed a cease-fire at a time when the US still refuses to put an end to its war of aggression and to withdraw all its forces, and when the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate still rules over South Viet Nam. This is tantamount to ashing the South Vietnamese people and armed forces to lay down their weapons, resign themselves to the occupation of South Viet Nam by US and satellite troops and accept the regime of US stooges.

As for Nixon's suggestion for an international conference on Indochina, was it a show of good will on his part to put forth such a proposal while the US was purposely blocking the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and rejecting the PRG 10-point overall solution, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's March 23, 1970 5-point Proclamation and the Lao Patriotic Front's 5-point solution?

On the "POW" issue, Nixon pretended to be "humanitarian," but just ignored the fair and reasonable proposal made in this connection by the PRG in the Sept. 17 statement by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh.

IT is obvious that Nixon's October 7 speech was not intended to provide a sound solution to the South Viet Nam problem. Apart from his desire to quiet a mounting public opinion pressing for a US serious response to the PRG proposals, the US president was after some additional votes for his Party at the coming mid-term elections in the United States and at the same time tried to divert from public attention US intensification and prolongation of its war of aggression against South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

Tension is growing in South Viet Nam and Indochina as a result of the Nixon administration's prosecution of its aggressive and warlike policy. This policy is also the only obstacle to any progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

At present, in the United States as well as in the world at large, a mighty drive is rising for the Nixon administration's ending of its aggressive war, withdrawal of all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, scrapping of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique so as to leave the South Vietnamese people free to settle their own affairs without foreign interference. It is therefore not surprising that world opinion was quick to condemn the Nixon Oct.7 5-point proposal as a "peace" hoax. Ex-Secretary of Defence Clifford found "nothing new" in Nixon's proposals. Senator Morse said that if the US President's fine words were removed, what remained was actually a demand that North Viet Nam and the National Front for Liberation capitulate.

As the US is continuing its war in South Viet Nam and setting up hurdles for the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, how can such proposals as advanced on Oct. 7 by Nixon bring us nearer to a South Viet Nam settlement? They are in fact an intolerable challenge to the peoples of South Viet Nam, the United States and the world who are struggling for an ending by Nixon of his bloody war of aggression in South Viet Nam and Indochina. Obviously the Nixon proposals are a far cry from a serious response to the constructive 8-point peace initiative put forth by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh at the Paris Conference.

There is no doubt Nixon will only reap the bitter fruits of his pursuit of an aggressive line.

The South Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, but it should be real peace in genuine independence and freedom. The resistance war waged by them is a righteous one and the position of the NFL and PRG is sound, fair and reasonable. Nothing can prevent our people's fight for independence and freedom from achieving final success.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

The pacification program: US-Puppet Hope and Concern

AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM

SINCE Nixon came to the White House almost two years ago, US efforts in South Viet Nam have been concentrated on the "Vietnamization" program to prolong the war. Pacification constitutes a component of vital importance for this program.

Nixon's astute advisers are of the opinion that *the US should gear its policy to controlling SVN populated areas, and that pacification is an offensive strategy.* It is their belief that rural pacification will strip the People's Liberation Armed Forces of their supply and replenishment sources, and hit hard at guerrilla bases, thereby gradually forcing the PLAF to "fade away," "knocking down their will power," etc. The Americans and their lackeys, therefore, regard the operation as a "national policy," a "strategic measure," a "basic objective of vital significance."

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique does not conceal that its lot depends upon the outcome of the "pacification" program described as "the last-ditch battle," and holds that "he who wins it will win the war."

In nearly two years since the program came into being, our enemy has done everything in his power to harm the SVN people's revolutionary movement including savage massacres and destruction of foodcrops and of entire hamlets and villages, which has only stiffened the resistance of our fellow-countrymen to an unprecedented level.

CRUELTY COMBINED WITH CRAFTINESS

THE "accelerated pacification" program is none other than a new version of the "strategic hamlet" plan considered under Ngo Dinh Diem, a "national policy"; it is the continuation of the "pacify SVN in 18 months" Staley-Taylor plan and revival of all pacification schemes that had been shattered by the Tet 1968 generalized offensives and uprisings. It aims essentially at herding the population into "strategic hamlets" renamed "new-life hamlets," and re-establishing the coercive machinery which is to work in concert with economic measures drawn up for corruptive purposes. The only difference—if at all—lies in the use of more manpower and money, more ruthless terror coupled with more machiavellian psywar methods, as well as a greater sense of urgency at each phase. To quote figures made public by the Saigon administration, a 315,000-strong force has been mustered at the outset, comprising a hard core of over 60,000 wicked thugs directed by more than 5,000 US pacification advisers, mostly CIA officers. Those are intelligence agents grouped in *Phoenix* teams, entrusted with the task of gathering information about, and assassinating, revolutionary cadres whose number is annually determined; psywar agents, "pacification cadres," policemen, militiamen, civil guards etc. The enemy spearhead their activities at the revolutionary movement at the grassroots level, and in so doing they shrink from no atrocity: armed repression, inhuman torture, mass murder, etc. At the same time, they step up bombings and shellings to an unheard-of fury and extensive sprayings of high-density [illegible], ricefields and orchard[illegible] bid[illegible]lation from the liberated [illegible]. is their intention to turn [illegible]nder PRG control that they cannot [illegible]'s lands. Among the bloodiest [illegible]ted [illegible]he US-puppets were Son My, Kong H'ring, Dien Ban, Ba Lang An.

Apart from killing innocent people in cold blood, they seek to erase contested areas around urban centres, military bases and along communication arteries, and set up security zones in their place. Once people are impounded in a "strategic hamlet," parallel to terroristic measures they resort to deceptions. Land reform, for example, presented as a revolutionary move, has enabled in fact the Saigon administration to provide lands to its trusted agents and wrest back those that had been distributed by the people's power to peasants who do not support it or are suspected "Viet Cong" sympathizers. On the other hand, the "strategic hamlets" supply manpower to the puppet army. Of course, drastic regulations are enforced, which greatly impede the goings and comings of the inmates and, consequently, adversely affect the earning of their living despite the millions of *dongs* spent to put a prosperous face on those disguised concentration camps.

In brief, the "accelerated pacification" program, just as the previous projects, is based on the utilization of brutal force of arms and duress combined with corruption and bribery. Conceived in utter ignorance of the South Vietnamese people's mentality, which fears no sacrifice for independence and liberty, such a program is nothing short of a forlorn hope.

PACIFICATION PUT TO A HARD TEST

ON November 25, 1968, the NFL and the PLAF High Command called on the population of South Viet Nam and its armed forces to push up their struggle to foil the "accelerated pacification" program, wipe out pacification teams and cruel agents, break the enemy's grip and seize power for the people. The appeal set off *powerful and uninterrupted waves of offensives and uprisings throughout South Viet Nam since early* 1969. Military actions in rural, mountain and urban areas coordinated with political struggle and agitation among adverse troops, have inflicted stinging setbacks on the US-puppets. Guerrilla warfare has kept on expanding steadily, helping the population to rise up against pacification drives and get rid of the enemy's hold.

Encroaching attacks on the liberated zone have been fiercely countered. In the first two months of 1969, guerrillas in Central Trung Bo and the Western High Plateaux put out of action over 13,000 men engaged in sweeps. In the first three months of 1970, the number of casualties wreaked upon three puppet divisions involved in large-scale "mop-ups" in four Mekong Delta provinces to help pacification work, ran to 18,000.

Series of posts and garrisons set up to control territory have been rushed, particularly in the first half of the current year.

While the US-puppets have tried to encroach upon the liberated zone, uprisings have simultaneously occurred in contested and "pacified" areas. And when they turned to the latter, the PLAF made deep thrusts into their rear bases, including big ones in Saigon, Da Nang, Binh Dinh, Cam Ranh, etc., which shook the whole of the adverse defence system.

On the whole, the "accelerated pacification" program has received big blows, and *remarkably enough it is such regions of major strategic importance as* the Mekong Delta, the Western High Plateaux and the plains of Central Trung Bo which have been areas of fiercest contention between the pacification and counter-pacification forces. Popular effervescence has never abated in places under enemy control. "Strategic hamlets" have been dismantled by big chunks. Since early 1969 the PLAF and the population have hit hard at the most efficient categories of adverse pacification agents like wicked thugs, informers, murderers of revolutionary cadres, civil guards, "pacification cadres." It is these actions that US-puppet propaganda calls "terroristic attempts" or "VC's strikes at the civilian population." From January to late June this year, in Central Nam Bo a large number of this kind of pacification agents were liquidated, and about a hundred civil-guard teams disbanded. In Central Trung Bo, the PLAF and the population even held courts to try those guilty of serious crimes against their fellow-countrymen.

FAILURES ADMITTED

DESPITE such hard facts the Saigon administration has boasted of "pacification successes that generate optimism," while Nixon and his associates have assessed the "progress" of the "pacification program" as "encouraging." Pacification workers on the field and unbiassed observers, however, have admitted failures and setbacks. The commander of a US infantry brigade stationed in Quang Nam-Da Nang pointed out that continued military operations demonstrated that the pacification program had failed [illegible]is area (*Reuter*, August 29, 1969). The command[illegible] US heliborne brigade drew a more concrete conc[illegible]on, saying that in four provinces [illegible], only 35% of these [illegible]rded as being under government control. [illegible]ricts, he added, the percentage was as low as [illegible]though no "communist" regulars operated i[illegible] area (*UPI*, Oct. 3, 1969). Members of the US [illegible]f Representatives touring South Viet Na[illegible]no better impression of the situation [illegible]ut[illegible] (*AP* (March 19, 1970), after a visit [illegible]this ye[illegible]of them said that outwardly the [illegible]rall situati[illegible]to have improved but in [illegible]y areas it was so gloomy that should the "Viet[illegible]" peacefully, he would wipe out all achie[illegible]t. He went on saying: "Pacification in [illegible]of South Viet Nam is not and cannot be successful. Referring to the south which includes the Mekong Delta, region where all US combat ground troops were withdrawn last fall, from hearsay only, I gather that most American military officers have grave doubts of the abilities of most of the ARVN units involved..." Giving the lie to the claim that Saigon controlled 90% of the South Viet Nam population, an American field officer in Quang Nam province retorted that 90% of the inhabitants in his area would "cut our throats" at the first chance.

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CLEARLY, for all the efforts of the US-puppets, pacification – the backbone of "Vietnamization" – has fallen short of its objectives, because it runs counter to the aspirations for independence and liberty of the Vietnamese people. Heir to a glorious tradition of resistance to foreign aggression over the centuries, and to profuse experience in the past twenty five years in the fight against two powerful imperialisms, they benefit moreover from the active support and assistance of the world peoples, the American included. The pacification program will end in a lamentable fiasco since it has sprung from "a wrong war, in a wrong place, at a wrong time."

THANH HONG

In the flush of our victories, forward!

SOUTH VIET NAM'S LAND. PEOPLE AND HISTORY

TAY NGUYEN
the indomitable "Green Gold Mine"

TAY Nguyen is an immense plateau stretching from North Quang Ngai province to the southernmost part of Trung Bo. The Tay Nguyen people are endowed by nature with easy-going manners, independent thinking and great sentimentality. Tay Nguyen is the land of colours. Its imposing landscape is made of limitless dark green forests coupled with slopy, bare red hills and fresh-looking plains.

Its total area is 48,000 square kilometres; forests giving valuable species account for 1,400 hectares; those grown with bamboos occupy 125,000 hectares, while 150,000 hectares are covered with common trees growing at mountain feet, and 245,000 hectares with palm-trees, pines, cinnamons and oil-yielding trees. All those forests constitute a "green gold mine" for South Viet Nam and an inexhaustible stock of materials for its future industry. People of more than 60 nationalities are living in Tay Nguyen through centuries, attached to this land where large herds of cows, goats and sheep, graze peacefully on Arcadian meadows.

Tay Nguyen is inhabited by 600,000 people, the largest nationalities being the Bahnar, Sedan, H're, Katu, Jarai and M'nong. They live scatteringly in the provinces of Kontum, Pleiku, Darlac, Tuyen Duc, Quang Duc and Lam Dong. There are almost 60 tribes, each having its own language and customs. All are dedicated hunters and elephant and horse-race-fans. All are strikingly robust, stout and physically fit.

In nearly a century of their rule over Viet Nam, the French colonialists sought to sow dissension, hatred and strife among the various Tay Nguyen tribes, under their "divide and rule" policy. They built jails to detain patriots of the Vietnamese stock, while forcing young men of other Tay Nguyen nationalities to work as prison guards at Ban Me Thuot, Pleiku, Kontum, Tra Khe, Daklay, Dakto, etc., and to put Vietnamese patriots to torture and to death. Nevertheless, bonds of solidarity and mutual help were forged between the people of Vietnamese nationality and the ethnical minorities who fought shoulder to shoulder for survival and against all forms of oppression and exploitation and for the defence of their villages and hamlets.

The French colonialists wanted to keep the Tay Nguyen people in intellectual darkness which would made their oppression and exploitation easier, but the highlanders always upheld their fervid love for freedom and independence and spirit of undauntedness. In Darlac province, for a whole century, the natives refused to pay taxes to the French and to enrol as mercenaries to fight for them. Each time the colonialists sent troops to the Tay Nguyen villages, the people would disperse deep in the forests and caves, [illegible] would resist them with arrows and spikes. The nation-wide seizure of power from the hands of the French and Japanese rulers in the August 1945 revolution was cheerfully acclaimed with [illegible] songs by the Tay Nguyen people.

In the [illegible] resistance to the French colonialists' come-back [illegible] Tay Nguyen minorities joined their efforts [illegible] Vietminh. They shrank from no difficulties [illegible] Specials soldiers in the front [illegible] liaison [illegible] and civilian carriers of [illegible] ammunition [illegible] rears, they worked [illegible] ght to boost up production and supply [illegible] organized guerilla units to defend [illegible] and [illegible] Guerilla hero Nay [illegible] Rbin [illegible] his skills in mobilizing his fellow-countrymen to fight aggression with a great variety of methods and means. The exploits of this remarkable son of the Bahnars and of other Tay Nguyen fighters substantially contributed to our common victory over the French imperialists and added new glowing pages to the histories of the Vietnamese and Tay Nguyen peoples.

The withdrawing French colonialists were soon replaced by the Americans. In the land of Kontum formerly fragrant with honey and covered with the famous Catecka tea-plantations, airfields and posts mushrooomed everywhere, at Dakto, Pley M'rong, Chuong Nghia. Airfields also made their appearance at D'brang, Le Thanh, Katu in the land of Pleiku rich in coffee-trees and precious timber. Airfields were scattered all over Ban Me Thuot, Phung Dac, Ban Don, Ma Can, Buon Ho, Cheo Reo, Bam La in the province of Darlac, a safari centre in Tay Nguyen. US-puppet tanks and armoured vehicles day and night rumbled on Roads 14, 5 and 19 so painstakingly built up by the hardworking nationalities in Kontum, Pleiku, Darlac.

But for all their show of strength and crafty manoeuvres, the US imperialists and their agents could not subdue the Tay Nguyen people. Deeply entrenched in their forests, grasslands and tea hills, the Pakos and H'res, the Radleys and Bahnars, far from bowing their heads, joined the Vietnamese in demolishing enemy "strategic hamlets" and "agricultural settlement," wiping out US-puppet troops right in Pleyme, flattening their strongholds in Play G'rang, burning and destroying hundreds of enemy aircraft and cannons in Dakpha, Darlac, erecting fighting villages and hamlets, tightening their fighting ranks in a grim guerilla war to foil all enemy offensives. The Tay Nguyen minorities coordinated their actions with the rest of the people and armed forces in the 1968 Spring offensives and uprisings, pouring fire and shells on the US-puppet sanctuaries in their military posts and in urban centres, towns and cities temporarily under their control, and took the anti-US resistance to a new stage.

In the present fight against the US aggressors, in Tay Nguyen, there have emerged many resplendent examples of revolutionary heroism, set by such heroes and heroines as Puih Tem in Jarai, Ho Duc (Pako nationality), Nghit (H're nationality), Dinh Tin (Rhe nationality), Pi Nang Thanh (Radley nationality) whose feats of arms will tower as high as the Bian Peak and will exert an impact as mighty as the Hanala and Tai Prenn Falls' in Tuyen Duc province.

Victory over the US aggressors will certainly belong to the various nationalities in Tay Nguyen. And Tay Nguyen hills and forests will again resound with the "t'rung" melody mixed with the murmurs of babbling brooks, and the Tay Nguyen people will behold at leisure the cows and goats and sheep grazing peacefully on the elevated meadows of this "green gold mine" of our Fatherland.

TAM DUONG

Safeguard **Tay Nguyen's** *beautiful landscape*

SAIGON STUDENTS' PROTEST BEARS FRUIT

ON October 3, 1970 the Thieu - Ky - Khiem junta was compelled to set free Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' Association and President of the South Viet Nam Students' Provisional Representatives' Committee, and two of his friends.

The persevering, resolute and heroic fight of the students in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities against Thieu-Ky-Khiem enjoyed the active sympathy and support of sister organizations in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Van Hanh, of the press and the Saigon Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights, and especially of teachers and students' parents. Rallies and hunger-strikes were staged, statements issued and petitions signed against the Saigon puppet authorities' brazen and savage repression. People from all walks of life pressed for the release of Huynh Tan Mam and other pupils and students who had been illegally detained.

Their protest was echoed by the Union of Pupils and Students for Liberation, the Union of Vietnamese Students, the International Union of Students, many student organizations in socialist and nationalist countries and student and youth organizations in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, etc... which all came out against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate, throwing in their lots with the good quarrel of South Viet Nam's students and pupils. The president of the American Students' Union and scores of American students went on a hunger-strike in sympathy with the Saigon students. There is no doubt that the latter's courageous actions and righteous cause have had widespread repercussions in South Vietnamese cities and in the world, including the United States.

That the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique was forced to release Huynh Tan Mam and his friends is unmistakably a success of the Saigon students and pupils and of all social strata in South Viet Nam's cities who displayed unbending and persistent militancy, and also one of the world students and peoples, including those in the United States, who supplied them with a strong backing. On the other, it is a stinging setback of the US-puppet policy of fascist terror.

Huynh Tan Mam and his friends have regained their freedom, but the South Vietnamese students and pupils' struggle has not come to an end, since the US aggressors are still trampling underfoot their native land and clinging to the wicked fascist gang of Saigon traitors.

The "republic" of Lon Nol is an ultrabogus republic

SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea, and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia on October 10 issued a joint statement exposing the "Republic" fraud of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique.

The statement was made public the same day at a press conference in Peking by Sarin Chhak, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

The statement pointed out that the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group, author of the "Republic" fraud, are those who, under the instigation of the CIA, have fomented the March 18, 1970 military *coup d'etat*, usurped the constitutional power, opposed Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and grossly trampled upon the basic provisions of the constitution of Cambodia.

It said: "The so-called 'Republic' of Lon Nol is an ultrabogus 'Republic'...

The statement provided proofs showing that the bogus "Republic" of Lon Nol is anti-popular, anti-democratic and anti-national. It said: "The 'rights and freedoms' that the bogus 'Republic' of Lon Nol has granted to the people are existing and will exist only on paper... Since March 18, 1970, our people in the areas not yet liberated no longer enjoy the rights and freedoms according to the 1947 constitution. They have been entirely abolished by the Lonnolites through the 'emergency laws' and the 'martial law' imposed on the nation by the putschists and the traitorous parliament after their *coup d'etat*."

The statement further said:

"The independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of the 'Cambodia of Lon Nol' are sheer empty words. For the 'Cambodia of Lon Nol' has once again become a protectorate of foreign countries, a 'cobra with three head': USA — Saigon — Bangkok. Phnom Penh, the capital, has become a real American colony...

All the incontestable facts that we have mentioned above prove that the 'Republic' of Lon Nol proclaimed on October 9, 1970 presents the following characteristics:

— It is illegal and anti-constitutional.

— It is bogus, anti-popular, anti-democratic and anti-national.

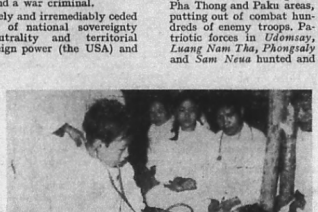
— It is a political criminal, a criminal by common law. And a war criminal.

— It has completely and irremediably ceded all the attributes of national sovereignty (independence, neutrality and territorial integrity) to a foreign power (the USA) and its satellites."

5,820 enemy troops wiped out

ACCORDING to *Kampuchea Information Agency (AKI)*, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces killed, wounded and captured over 5,820 enemy troops including 1,320 of Saigon puppet, in the last month. In term of units, they wiped out and heavily decimated a Brigade HQ, 7 battalions and 9 companies from whom 2 of the Saigon puppet army.

The NLAF, at the same time, destroyed 150 armoured cars, seized 300 guns, pounded 8 war-vessels, shot down 2 aircraft and set afire a military store.



Opposite: *A field-hospital in liberated zone of Laos.* →

Laos: Nearly 1,200 enemy casualties in September

THE Lao armed forces and people throughout the country last month fought *over 230 battles, big and small, putting out of action nearly 1,200 enemy troops*, and foiling many enemy operations of encroachment on the liberated areas under the control of the Lao Patriotic Front, according to *KPL*.

Many enemy battalions were seriously decimated, three companies completely annihilated, to tons of military equipment and over 600 firearms seized or destroyed, 7 planes downed and many others damaged.

The patriotic fighters in *Luang Prabang*, northern Laos, broke the "operation 870" conducted against Pha Thong and Paku areas, putting out of combat hundreds of enemy troops. Patriotic forces in *Udomsay, Luang Nam Tha, Phongsaly* and *Sam Neua* hunted and wiped out scores of bandit and commando groups smuggled into the liberated areas. The liberation forces of Udomsay and Sayaboury counter-attacked the enemy engaged in the "Samaki" (Solidarity) operation aimed at intensifying forcible conscription in the areas under their control. Meanwhile, the armed forces and people in *Vientiane* intercepted many raids including the "Xing Xay" raid in Khau Khoai and Nam Ngum areas, 50km northeast of Vientiane, causing to the enemy heavy losses.

The *Xieng Khoang* patriotic forces smashed many attacks carried out in the framework of operation "Tha Nong Kiet" involving nearly 20 battalions of Vang Pao bandit troops and Thailand regular troops supported by US aircraft and Thai artillery against Ban Na, Muong Pot, Muong Sui, Xieng Det and other parts southwest of the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang area. They knocked down hundreds of enemy troops and shot down two American planes.

The liberation forces in *Savannakhet* took on the enemy in their "Kau Nha Kiet" raid southeast of highways 9 and 12 and Tum Lan and Muong Phin areas, brought down 3 US planes and inflicted other serious losses. Many commandos were wiped out in Tavenok, Kham Mouane and Saravane provinces.

Anti-War Movement in US Army

STRONGER and stronger has grown the impact of the anti-Viet Nam war dissent in America on US militarymen.

The Pentagon has acknowledged that in 1969, 50,000 GIs deserted in addition to 200,000 AWOL's and since the beginning of this year, 81,000 armymen and marines have gone over the hill.

According to *Newsweek*, since the extension of the war to Cambodia, there have been every week over 1,000 deserters and draft dodgers crossing the Canadian border. The *Sunday Star* quoted a Viet Nam returned as saying that many GIs in Viet Nam did not carry their officers' orders for they knew that the US could not win.

In American bases at home and abroad, the number of participants in the anti-war movement has been on the increase. Over 1,000 marines at Pendleton training camp held an anti-war meeting. On July 30, 200 black GIs at Fort Carson faced military police for a night with bricks, stones and bottles. In mid-August, GIs punished for having gone AWOL resisted the MP, breaking window-panes to pieces and burning two billets.

On July 4, 1,000 black GIs stationed at Heidelberg (West Germany) protested against the Indochina war and denounced US wholesale massacres of civilians, genocide and other crimes. On September 30 and October 1, about 200 GIs staged a similar action at Iwakuni, an important US marine base in Japan. On July 7, GIs of the same base, rebelled for 14 hours against the MP. According to a Japanese bourgeois paper, the anti-war spirit among GIs garrisoned in Japan has developed into anti-war action. Such a mood also can be found in the US and in US bases abroad.

GI anti-war organizations and papers have mushroomed. In Japan, a 350-member anti-war organization was set up at Iwakuni, other GI anti-war groups came into being at Yokosuka and Itazuke. At the beginning of October, US officers and soldiers in Iceland issued a paper vehemently condemning the Viet Nam war and urging the withdrawal of the GIs from South-East Asia. A news-making press conference was held on September 9 in Washington by 28 representatives of 250 army, navy and air officers serving at US bases from Iceland to Hawaii, founders of the "concerned officers movement." They declared they opposed the Viet Nam war for political and moral reasons and they had the right to openly criticize US national policy and the duty to encourage other officers to give voice to their dissent.

At the press conference, Lieutenant Font said that he was against the war for law had become crime and military obedience meant crime. As a biologist, Captain Fox denounced chemical warfare in Viet Nam, as a genocide. According to Major S. Braverman, any American patriot ought to make it his pressing duty to help put an end to the war.

The GI anti-war movement is warmly supported by Americans and the peoples of the countries where the Pentagon has set up military bases. Committees of solidarity with American deserters have been established in Canada, Sweden and Japan. Progressive students in West Germany have held rallies in support of rebelling GIs.

Mass organizations in the US have actively backed GIs hostile to the Viet Nam war. Demonstrations before military installations have called for an end to US commitment in South-East Asia and appealed to GIs to protest against an unjust and criminal war. They have taken part in GI anti-war meetings and parades.

Faced with a growing movement of protest and desertion, the American administration has sought to hide the truth about US casualties in Indochina. The Newton-Wellesley section of the Women's International Federation for Peace and Freedom just revealed that the Pentagon kept mum about 20,000 GI casualties in the Indochina theater (*The Old Mole* - May 29 - June 11, 1970).

General Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff expressed in an interview granted the *US News and World Report* the concern of the American military over national hostility towards them, which prevented them from carrying out their draft work in a number of universities, and incited certain higher education institutions to turn down research for the Pentagon and young men to hate the military career.

Commenting on the White House and the Pentagon alarm, *The Old Mole* wrote that the people wanted to stop them from wasting thousands of lives and billions of dollars in a losing war against a poor nation but resolved to fight for her freedom.

That bogey can scare nobody

ON Sept. 26, the Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Korean People's Democratic Republic made public a denunciation of the US imperialists' repeated military provocations against the Korean people.

The statement said that on Sept. 23, the US imperialists had staged on East Korean seacoast a "large-scale landing" with the participation of the aircraft carrier "America" belonging to the 7th Fleet. Prior to that, on Sept. 21, the Far Eastern Fleet of the British Navy had, on US orders and under the label of UNO Forces, carried out manoeuvres in South Korea together with the Pak Jung Hi troops. Moreover, US planes frequently violated the airspace of North Korea and US artillery mounted shellings across the demilitarized zone.

Obviously, with these moves, the US imperialists were trying to intimidate the Korean people, but they only laid bare their true colours. They wanted to show the flag but the Korean people, more than anyone else, are aware of the actual nature of that bogey. The "military strength" of the US imperialists is only a myth : it has been clearly exploded in Korea and in Viet Nam.

Confronted with mounting difficulties in the United States itself—troubles, economic recession, galloping inflation, increasing rate of unemployment — as a result of the prolongation and extension of the war of aggression in Indochina, the Nixon administration recently had to speak about a "reduction" of US occupation troops in South Korea. But its actual deeds as mentioned above only cast a strong light on the viciousness of Nixon's "new Asian policy." The US President still nurtures the scheme of using South Korea as a spring-board for aggression against the Korean People's Democratic Republic — which is an unchanged policy of the White House.

On the other hand, the US authorities must reckon with the steady growth of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the new developments in the patriotic movement of the South Korean people as testified by the manifesto and political program of the South Korean United Revolutionary Party just made public ; the new military provocations by the US imperialists only betray US and US henchmen's alarm and reaction of wild beasts at bay.

The South Vietnamese people fully back the sound position of the Korean People's Democratic Republic Government and the Korean people expounded in the Sept. 26 statement of the KPDR Foreign Ministry spokesman. They strongly condemn the US imperialists' schemes and acts of aggression against the Korean People's Democratic Republic. Let them be warned that should they not stop their outmoded big stick policy, should they not draw lessons from the past and should they indulge in reckless deeds that may touch off a new conflict in Korea, they will certainly be duly punished by the heroic Korean people just as they were in Korea years ago and are in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos at present !

US Mid-East schemes are bound to fail

A new act in the US Mid-East "aggression" play was just staged when the American stooges in the Jordan government, on US orders, frienziedly attacked the Palestinian guerrillas to sabotage from within the Arab movement while the US 6th Fleet was cruising on the Mediterranean to show the flag from without. The Palestinian guerrilla forces were to be wiped out within a few hours by men on US payroll equipped with US weapons and supplied with US dollars : thus was the hope of Washington bosses.

But the situation did not develop in accordance with the US aggressors' expectation. A number of Palestinian guerrillas and people had fallen, but several thousands of Jordanians had also had to pay for their lives. Guerrilla bases and Palestinians' property and houses had been heavily damaged but dwelling houses of the Jordan people had also been shattered by tanks and shells of the Jordan Army.

The cannary authorities in Jordan brought devastation on their own country, killed their own countrymen and their Arab brothers who had been heroically resisting the US and Israeli aggressors to free their homeland and to contribute to the cause of the great Arab family—all this for the sake of US dollars and weapons !

The US agents in Jordan had to yield to pressure from Arab countries and order a cease-fire after nine days of bloodshed and after meeting with a firm armed opposition and a stern condemnation by the Jordan people and the Arab world. The wild hopes of the US imperialists and Israeli aggressors did not come true !

But at present they are performing a second act of their play : using the so-called "relief to refugees," the US is stepping up aid in military weapons to the reactionary authorities in Jordan, pouring in more dollars and spies to win over the reactionary military groups with a view to kindling anew the flames of an internecine war. On the other hand, the Israeli aggressors are threatening Jordan with an attack if the Palestinian guerrillas fight them from the territory of Jordan. They are also spreading rumours that the Palestinian guerrillas are preparing to attack Jordanian positions, but, eventually to have a pretext for a new war of aggression and to force the Jordan reactionaries to attack their Arab brothers. The Palestinian guerrillas' radio station denounced that the Jordan reactionaries and Israeli aggressors were moreover plotting to set up a "small" Palestine west of the Jordan River, on a Jordan territory seized by Israel. In this narrow strip of land they are scheming to pin up the Palestinian guerrilla fighters so as to do away with them more easily.

It is crystal-clear that the US imperialists, the Israeli aggressors and the US stooges in Jordan have not renounced their wicked plan to stamp out the Palestinian people's resistance movement. They may resort in the coming days to still more crafty moves. However, the Palestinian people's liberation struggle is as just cause which enjoys widespread support from the Arab peoples and the freedom- and justice-loving people the world over. It will certainly achieve final success.

The US aggressors and their valets are endeavouring to foment trouble in the Middle East in order to "fish in troubled waters," but their cunning designs will undoubtedly be thwarted by the Palestinian people's resolve to fight, by the solidarity of the Arab peoples and by the world peoples' support for the Palestinian people's anti-US, anti-Israeli liberation struggle.

TVX

NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF SOUTH YEMEN

OCTOBER 14, 1963 has gone down in the history of the People's Republic of South Yemen as a significant landmark heralding a decisive stage in their heroic centuries-long struggle against the British colonialists and their lackeys — the native feudal rulers.

Four years later, on November 30, 1967, they compelled the British colonialists to withdraw from their country and proclaimed the People's Republic of South Yemen.

This was also no mean contribution to the national liberation movement now in full swing in the Middle East, throughout Asia and Africa, and Latin America.

Since then, the South Yemen Government and people have shown their determination to fight imperialism and colonialism headed by US imperialism, to safeguard and strengthen their national independence.

The People's Republic of South Yemen has baffled several attempts of counter-revolutionaries supported by US and British imperialists against its territory. It has nationalized all banks, trade insurance companies, shipping lines and petrol distribution companies on its territory. It has severed diplomatic relations with the United States to protest against US intervention in the South Yemen internal affairs and US sending of airmen in support of the Israeli aggressors against the Arab countries. It has always been made common cause with the national liberation movement the world over.

Standing in the common front against imperialism and colonialism, the South Viet Nam and South Yemen peoples have strengthened their relations of friendship and militant solidarity. Over the past years, many meetings and demonstrations in support of Viet Nam against US aggression have been held in South Yemen. The population of Aden observed December 31, 1968 as a day of solidarity with the Vietnamese people. The recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam by the People's Republic of South Yemen and the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the two countries have greatly stimulated the resistance of the South Viet Nam people against US aggression, for national salvation.

On the third National Day of the People's Republic of South Yemen, the South Viet Nam people convey to the fraternal South Yemen people their heartfelt greetings and their sincere thanks. They warmly acclaim the achievements won by the South Yemen people during the past three years and reaffirm their solidarity with these in their effort against imperialism and colonialism to safeguard their independence. They are firmly confident that the South Yemen people will obtain many more successes in their fight against imperialism and colonialism old and new headed by US imperialism, for independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

Above :

President of the People's Republic of South Yemen receiving credentials from Mr Truong Binh, Ambassador of SVNR in South Yemen.

PRG Peace Initiative Wins More Backing

Todor Jivkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (October 5):

"The new initiative of the PRG of the SVNR is supported by broad sections of world opinion and constitutes a realistic basis to end the war."

G. Traikov, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (October 2):

..."I regard it as an expression of the desire of the PRG to settle in a fair manner the Vietnamese issue..."

Jeno Fock, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Hungary (October 2):

... "The Hungarian Government is firmly convinced that the new elucidations made by the PRG of the SVNR on a certain number of points in the ten-point overall solution open up practical possibilities to end the US aggression and restore peace in Viet Nam..."

Houari Boumédienne, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic:

"I fully support the new peace initiative of the PRG of the SVNR. The restoration of lasting peace in Indochina depends on the unconditional withdrawal of all US troops from this area."

Statement of the **Secretariat of the WFTU** (September 23):

... "The important initiative of the PRG of the SVNR once more brings out its desire to peacefully settle the Vietnamese problem. The Secretariat of the WFTU calls on all trades-union to intensify their active support to the just cause of the Vietnamese people and to insist more firmly that the US government resolutely strike the path of peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese problem and positively respond to the constructive proposals of the PRG of the SVNR."...

"Peace will be restored in Viet Nam and Indochina if Nixon knows how to take advantage of his opportunity at a time when the Vietnamization of the war has met with total failure in its conception as well as in reality."

Statement of the **Soviet Committee of Support to Viet Nam:**

... "World progressive opinion regards the initiative of the South Vietnamese patriots as a contribution of a constructive character to the search for a just peace in Viet Nam."

Statement of the **Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces:**

..."This reasonable initiative meets the legitimate aspirations of the Vietnamese people and the peace- and justice-loving peoples the world over."

Statement of the **Secretariat of the World Peace Council** (October 2):

"This initiative proffers the US government a chance to end its criminal war of aggression."

The Permanent Secretariat of the Tri-Continental Organization (October 10):

"The clarifications on the 10-point overall solution have created favourable conditions for the US imperialists to find an honourable way out of the war."

Statement of the **Finish National Liberation Front in Support of Viet Nam** (October 8):

"If the US imperialists do not accept this proposal, it will be clear that they want to prevent the Vietnamese people from deciding their own future."

Statement of the **Norwegian Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam** (October 9):

"The PRG offer is an important contribution to the struggle of the South Vietnamese people on the political and diplomatic front."

Statement of over 500 delegates to the **British Labour Party, Blackpool** (annual Convention):

... "We express our full support to the new initiative of the PRG of the SVNR concerning the settlement of the Vietnamese problem."

Finish paper **Kansan Uratiset** (October 6):

..."The new initiative of the PRG of the SVNR put forward at the Paris Conference is an important document of inestimable value."

Finish paper **Helsingin Sanomat:**

..."If the United States wants to withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam, the solution advanced by the SVNR could serve as a basis for the Vietnamization of the peace."

Swedish paper Aftoubladet:

... "The new step made by the Vietnamese patriots has created a real basis for a settlement of the Viet Nam conflict."

Meeting of Belgian Socialist Youth Vanguard in Brussels in protest against US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Nixon's New Peace Move Under Fire

Communique of the **Student Mobilization Committee To End the Viet Nam War** (October 8):

... A hodge-podge of platitudes on peace in which Nixon has uncompromisingly maintained the legitimacy of the discredited Thieu-Ky dictature.

Tass News Agency (October 8):

..." Nixon's plan proves that the United States is deadset on keeping the puppet Thieu-Ky administration, which is a great obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese problem."

Sinhua (October 10):

"In the upshot, Nixon's five points are but a desperate attempt to save the US imperialists from defeat, a deception to "legalize their war of aggression in Indochina."

Rodong Shinmun (Korea, October 10):

"Nixon's speech is but a gimmick replete with sophistries, a phoney peace move of the US imperialists, a hackneyed plea for aggressive wars, with nothing new."

National United Front of Kampuchea Radio:

"The so-called 'peace conference on Indochina' proposed by Nixon is an attempt to delude world public opinion and to sell his "peace good will."

Neues Deutschland (October 10):

"Only the Vietnamese people's are practical and fair terms to bring peace to Indochina."

Bulgarian Fatherland Front *magazine* (October 10):

"Nixon wants to use the troop withdrawal as a lever to bring his political trick to fruition in face of public opinion in the US and in the world."

Cuban paper **Granma** (October 8):

..."Nixon has no intention to end the war and has turned down the proposals of the PRG of the SVNR on the formation of a coalition government without Thieu-Ky-Khiem."

Hungary Radio (October 8):

... "The proposal of an armistice in Indochina advanced by Nixon in his speech is part of his election campaign."

Czechoslovak paper **Pravda** (October 9):

"Nixon's speech contains a fundamental error: he has not answered the very interesting proposals of the PRG of the SVNR."

US paper **New York Times:**

The meaning of the proposals both military and political made so far by the United States consists in securing for the Thieu-Ky regime the lion's share of the military and political power in South Viet Nam.

Syrian paper **Alsaura** (October 8):

..."Nixon's statement keeps to the line of the US aggressive strategy in Asia and to the principles of war expansion."

Honghong paper **Hsinwin Pao:**

... "Nixon's proposal of an armistice resembles an act of feigned charity and a clumsy act by a clown."

Finish paper **Helsingin Sanomat:**

..."It is very difficult for the Paris Conference to succeed if the US government does not give any evidence of his sincere desire to bring the war on the battlefield to the conference table."

in brief ⋆ in brief ⋆ in brief ⋆ in brief

● On September 21, the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front and Czechoslovak Peace Committee launched a campaign in support of the struggle of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples against US aggression and demanding complete, rapid and unconditional withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries.

● Since 1968, the Swedish organization in support of the South Viet Nam NFL has been able to collect 3 million crowns in favour of the South Viet Nam NFL.

● Speaking at the parliamentary conference of the Commonwealth in Canberra (Australia) on October 2, H. Nkwablo, Minister of Development and Finance of Zambia, urged that the US withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its troops from Viet Nam and other Southeast Asian countries.

● At the Convention held on October 2, at Blackpool (Great Britain) the Labour Party adopted a resolution demanding that the US government withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam and Cambodia and let the peoples of Indochinese countries settle themselves their own affairs without outside interference.

● A joint statement was released on September 25, in Prague by Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan in which the Indochinese problem was referred to as follows: "Both parties unanimously affirm that in order to peacefully settle the Indochinese problem, first and foremost it is necessary to withdraw from South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia all foreign troops and fully respect the fundamental national rights of the three Indochinese peoples to decide themselves their own destiny without outside interference."

● On October 4, at Coventry (Great Britain) the Committee of Medical Assistance to Viet Nam collected over 60 litres of blood and 205 pound Sterling for the Vietnamese people.

● The Argentina organization of the Movement of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People has collected money to buy one ton of quinin to be sent to the Vietnamese people. The union of solidarity has recently decided to step up actions for the withdrawal of US troops from Indochina. A petition expected to receive 100,000 signatures will be sent to the US government.

● An anti-US demonstration was held on October 2, at Lares, in Puerto Rico, by 10,000 peoples against the US war of aggression in Indochina and for the independence of Puerto Rico.

● The Federation of Italian Trade and Service Workers, affiliated to the Italian General Confederation of Labour, launched a campaign of solidarity with the South Vietnamese people and to collect exercise-books and school articles for Vietnamese children.

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PRESIDENT HUYNH TAN PHAT ANSWERS INTERVIEW ON NIXON'S PEACE HOAX

PRESIDENT Huynh Tan Phat of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam granted an interview to *GPA* concerning US President Nixon's address on October 7.

The full text of the interview runs as follows:

Question: *Mr President, do you think that the October 7, 1970 proposals of US President Nixon meet the urgent and legitimate demands of our people for a correct solution to the South Viet Nam problem?*

Answer — While the Vietnamese people together with progressive opinion in the United States and in the rest of the world are urging that the US government seriously meet the fair and reasonable proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam made in the September 17, 1970 statement of Mme Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, Mr Nixon completely evaded these proposals in his address. President Nixon did not give any serious answer to the most basic and most legitimate problems of a correct solution to the South Viet Nam problem, but only sought to mislead public opinion on those problems.

As everybody knows, the US government has massively sent US expeditionary troops and troops of other foreign countries in the US camp to South Viet Nam, to carry out the most brutal war of aggression in history, grossly trampling underfoot the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people and seriously sabotaging the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. A basic and urgent question is being posed in order to quickly reach a correct solution aimed at ending the war and restoring peace in South Viet Nam, that is the US must cease its aggression, respect the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people, promptly withdraw all its troops and troops of the foreign countries in its camp from South Viet Nam without posing any conditions. In order to pave the way for the US to withdraw from its costly war, both in lives and wealth, in South Viet Nam, our government, through the September 17, 1970 statement of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, already declared without ambiguity: In case the US government declares it will withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp by June 30, 1971, the People's Liberation Armed Forces will refrain from attacking the withdrawing troops of the United States and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp, and the parties will engage at once in discussions on:

— The question of ensuring safety for the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam of US troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp.

— The question of releasing captured militarymen.

Mr Nixon evaded announcing the timetable for the withdrawal of the US troops, revealed his scheme of prolonging the withdrawal of the US troops and protracting indefinitely the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, in an attempt to gain a position of strength through "Vietnamization" of the war. Nixon pretended he wanted an early end to the war and no more losses of lives for any side. That is mere deception. Mr Nixon proposed the release of all prisoners of war, journalists and civilians, saying this is an "humane act." But these hypocritical allegations cannot conceal the US monstrous crimes in South Viet Nam, as well as so many sufferings and mournings caused to Vietnamese and American families by the US aggressors.

Another basic problem of a correct solution is how to realize the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. The US imperialists have rigged up in South Viet Nam a stooge administration to serve their aggressive design, carry out US neo-colonialism, and perpetuate the division of Viet Nam. The Saigon administration set up by the US represents nobody. The elections organized by them under the gun muzzle of the US cannot be free and democratic elections and are completely devoid of any value.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem militarist clique at the head of the present Saigon administration are a group of bellicose and fascist henchmen who live on the US war of aggression: Obedient to the US orders, they massacre our compatriots, ravage our country in service of the very brutal and perfidious "Vietnamization of the war" plan of the US. They repress everybody who stands for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, regardless of political tendency and religious belief. They even repress persons in their own ranks who do not fall into their line. They oppose the proposal to set up a provisional coalition government with a large representation which would organize really free and democratic elections to set up a coalition government really representing all strata of the South Viet Nam population.

They constitute the major obstacle on the way toward a political settlement in South Viet Nam. The South Vietnamese people of all strata and tendencies are resolved to overthrow them. Many persons in the Saigon administration and in the US political circles have also demanded that the US government renounce them. A pressing and legitimate demand of the South Viet Nam townspeople is to form in Saigon an administration without Thieu-Ky-Khiem, standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. We have stated clearly that the SVNR PRG is prepared to talk with such an administration on a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, and the provisional coalition government will include three components: persons of the PRG of the RSVN, persons of the Saigon administration really standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy and persons of various political and religious forces and tendencies standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, including those who, for political reasons, have to live abroad. Yet, Mr Nixon has obstinately countered the realization of the South Viet Nam people's genuine right to self-determination by slanderously charging the SVNR PRG with wanting to "take over" all power and "exclude whoever they wish from the government."

Mr Nixon has himself exposed his obdurate stand and his lack of seriousness by proposing to "seek a political solution that reflects the will of the South Vietnamese people" while persisting in maintaining Thieu, Ky and Khiem whom the South Vietnamese people are resolved to topple.

While continuing to elude the above fundamental questions of the solution, Mr Nixon proposed a cease-fire "without preconditions." The SVNR PRG's stand on this score has also been made clear in the statement of its delegation at the Paris Conference on September 17, 1970. We will, together with the other parties, implement the modalities that will have been laid down for a cease-fire in South Viet Nam after they are agreed on and signed accords aimed at putting an end to the war.

It is clear that by proposing a cease-fire while the US has not announced a time-table for the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and still maintains the militarist Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, Mr Nixon wants to deny us our sacred right to self-defence and wants us to surrender unconditionally so that the American troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp may be free to occupy South Viet Nam indefinitely, legalize the existence of the colonial and bellicose administration, an instrument of US aggression in South Viet Nam. This is an utterly insolent demand.

Question: *Would you let us know your views regarding Nixon's proposal for an "international peace conference on Indochina"?*

Answer: This is not a serious proposal. It is the US stubborn aggressive stand that has caused the Paris Conference on Viet Nam to remain in a stalemate. Mr Nixon cannot evade his responsibility for prolonging the war in South Viet Nam and expanding it to the whole of Indochina. The point is not the form of one conference or another, but whether or not the US wants to end its aggression, withdraw totally and unconditionally its troops and those of the foreign countries in the American camp from South Viet Nam, stop maintaining Thieu, Ky and Khiem, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. The affair of each country in Indochina must be decided by its people. The South Viet Nam issue must be settled on the basis of the ten-point overall solution of the NFL and the SVNR PRG, and on the elaborations made in the September 17, 1970 statement. The Lao problem must be settled on the basis of the five-point political solution put forth by the Lao Patriotic Front. The Cambodian problem must be settled in the spirit of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's Proclamation of March 23, 1970. Mr Nixon's "peace initiative" is but a perfidious maneuvre to cover up the US imperialists' stubborn aggressive stand.

The South Viet Nam people and the SVNR PRG fully support the October 11, 1970 statement of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia demanding that the US halt its aggression against Cambodia, cease unconditionally, completely and immediately the bombings and straffings on the Cambodian territory by American air force and the puppets of the US, pull out totally, unconditionally and without delay the US advisors and the puppet troops of Thieu-Ky-Khiem and Thanom Praphas, end completely all acts of war, provocation and interference in Cambodia's internal affairs, and leave the Cambodian people alone to settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

The people and PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam fully support the October 13, 1970 statement of the spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee demanding that the US end its intervention and aggression against Laos, first of all totally cease the bombings on the whole Lao territory so as to create favourable conditions for the Lao parties concerned to meet and peacefully settle the Lao issue on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos and the present realities of the situation in that country without foreign interference.

United in the common fight against the US aggressors and their flunkeys, the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos are recording bigger victories than ever before. However obdurate and perfidious, the US imperialists can in no way escape their total failure.

Question: *Mr President, would you comment on the reaction of the South Vietnamese people toward Mr Nixon's October 7 address?*

Answer: Endowed with a long tradition of indomitable struggle against foreign aggression and with a high political awareness, the South Vietnamese people certainly will not be fooled by Mr Nixon's honey words and machiavellian tricks. The South Vietnamese people and the SVNR PRG severely condemn and resolutely reject Mr Nixon's fraudulent "peace proposals."

We are deeply attached to peace, but this must be peace in independence and freedom. Implementing the sacred Testament of great President Ho Chi Minh, loyal to their commitments contained in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese people, on the crest of the victories already recorded, are determined to persist in and step up the just fight till total victory, in order to achieve at all costs their aspiration and will for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and concord, and at the same time to unceasingly contribute to the strengthening of the bloc of militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples.

Progressive opinion in the world, including the United States, has been warmly hailing the eight points enunciated by our government in the statement of September 17, 1970 of Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and strongly denouncing President Nixon's peace swindle. The American people, endowed with a tradition of peace and freedom-loving, certainly will not let themselves be deceived by Mr Nixon's fraudulous words and will oppose with even greater vigour the US government's stubborn policy of aggression. The socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries and our friends in all continents surely will increase support and assist more actively and in all fields the just fight of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples against the US aggressors till total victory.

"NIXON'S INITIATIVE" CONDEMNED BY THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES

A subterfuge designed to deceive public opinion

(RGNUC's Statement)

... "THE Cambodian problem was thus created entirely by interference followed by the massive invasion of the Khmer territory by the US imperialists in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina.

Therefore, the solution to this problem can only be found in the respect for the fundamental national rights of the Khmer people as stipulated in the 1954 Geneva Agreements, namely: independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, and the cessation of acts that have brought about the present situation, in other words:

— immediate, complete and unconditional cessation of the bombing and strafing of the Cambodian territory by the aircraft of the United States and those of its puppets;

— immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of the American advisors and the Thieu-Ky and Thanom-Praphas puppet troops;

— complete cessation of all acts of war, provocations and interference on the part of the US government and its puppets.

The Khmer people should be able to manage their own affairs without foreign interference.

Likewise, a durable peace in Indochina can only be installed with the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the troops of the United States and those of its satellites and allies.

Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia reaffirms its full support:

— for the four-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

— for the 10-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, with the particulars contained in the 8-point proposal recently formulated at the Paris Conference by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam,

— for the 5-point statement of March 6, 1970, and the memorandum of July 20, 1970, of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front.

The proposition of President Nixon is but a subterfuge designed to deceive international public opinion and the opinion of the American people at the approach of the forthcoming November elections...

The only way for solving the Indochina question is to respect the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples and for this, the United States, its satellites and allies should in the first place pull out completely from Indochina, cease all acts of aggression against the states and peoples of Indochina and abide by the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia therefore denounces once again President Nixon's fraud of "peace initiatives".

A proposal aimed at legalising US occupation

(LPFCC Spokesman's Statement)

COVERED by round-about and crafty claims, Nixon's new proposal contains nothing new at all. It only sheds more light on the unchanged stubborn position of the Nixon administration of refusing to end the war and give up its aggressive scheme against the Indochinese countries. The 5-point Nixon proposal in essence is a fraud in the forthcoming US Congressional election aimed at soothing public opinion in the world and the peace-loving people in the US and forcing the peoples of the Indochinese countries to accept the US's piratical solution.

Nixon particularly laid stress on his proposal for a "cease-fire-in-place" in the whole of Indochina, while the US imperialists are still maintaining some 400,000 US troops on the South Viet Nam battlefield, and tens of thousands of South Vietnamese puppet troops on the Cambodian battlefield, and are bringing many additional US military personnel, many units of Thai forces and South Vietnamese puppet troops to Laos, intensifying their war and nibbling at many areas under the control of the Lao Patriotic Front, hampering contacts between the plenipotentiaries of the two Princes to seek for a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem, while the US is dragging out its war of aggression in South Viet Nam through its "Vietnamization of the war," and continuing its intervention and aggression in Cambodia.

This proposal is aimed at legalising the occupation of the whole of Indochina by US and satellite troops, and also a measure to defend the henchmen of the US from being overthrown or driven from the areas under their temporary control. The US demand for a "cease-fire-in-place" is tantamount to robbing the Lao patriotic forces and people as well as the people of other countries in Indochina of the right to fight in self-defence, compelling them to bow before the aggression and enslavement by the US imperialists and their lackeys.

This "cease-fire" proposal of Nixon, linked with the vague statement concerning the troop withdrawal, shows that the US refuses to withdraw speedily, totally and unconditionally the US troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam and, at the same time, refuses to withdraw the US military advisers and personnel, the Thai mercenaries and the South Vietnamese puppet troops it has dispatched to Laos to assist its quislings there.

The Lao Patriotic Front resolutely exposes the deceitfulness of the proposals made by Nixon on October 7, 1970 and strongly condemns the Nixon administration's obdurate stand in dragging out its aggressive war against the countries of Indochina.

The Lao Patriotic Front reaffirms that the five-point political solution set forth by the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970 is the correct basis for a peaceful settlement of the Lao question. The US must stop intervening in, and invading, Laos. First of all, it must completely end the bombing of Lao territory, so as to create favourable conditions for the parties concerned in Laos to meet and openly settle the Lao issue on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and the practical situation in the country at present, without foreign interference..."

An attempt to evade a response to the proposals made by the SVNR PRG

(DRVN Foreign Ministry's Statement)

"... IN an attempt to extricate himself from his predicament and passivity and ease pressure from public opinion, on October 7, 1970, President Nixon advanced a 5-point proposal which he said is a "new initiative for peace" of the US on the Indochinese problem.

In that so-called "new initiative for peace," President Nixon was vague on two fundamental problems, namely the problem of US troop pull-out and the political problem in South Viet Nam.

Concerning the problem of the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam, President Nixon tried to make the public understand wrongly that the US government also has goodwill in the complete withdrawal of US troops. But in fact, President Nixon said he will withdraw US troops "on the basis of the principles" he "spelled out previously" that is, "mutual troop withdrawal", and this time, he linked the US troop withdrawal with the overall settlement of the Indochinese problem, thus posing more conditions for the withdrawal of American troops.

At the same time, President Nixon perfidiously declared his readiness "to negotiate an agreed timetable for complete withdrawals" with the aim of opposing the necessity for the US government to clearly define a time-limit for the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and covering up the scheme to maintain an important part of the US troops for prolonged occupation of South Viet Nam.

On the political problem in South Viet Nam, President Nixon claimed that the US "respects the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people." The US viewpoint on the 'right to self-determination' boils down essentially to maintaining the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet clique — lackeys of the US — opposing the formation of the provisional coalition government and asking for the right of the Saigon puppet administration to organize fraudulent elections at bayonet point of US occupation troops in an attempt to maintain US neo-colonialist domination in South Viet Nam. For the real guarantee of the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the crucial thing is that the US must withdraw completely and unconditionally troops of the US and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, and renounce the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique as a tool of aggression of the US.

The undertaking of the PRG of the SVNR to form a broad provisional coalition government comprising three components clearly manifests the policy of national union and national concord and at the same time ensures the principle that neither side may impose its political regime on the South Vietnamese people. This fair and reasonable undertaking has received the approval and broad support from various strata of the South Vietnamese people, especially in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities. President Nixon, however, has grossly distorted this undertaking by branding it an attempt at takeover by one party.

As can be seen through these two fundamental problems, the Nixon administration still persists in its aggression against Viet Nam. On the battlefield, the US is frenzicdly stepping up the "Vietnamization" of the war in an effort to prolong the war in South Viet Nam, and at the same time intensifying the war of aggression in Laos and Cambodia...

At a time when the US government is promoting the implementation of its aggressive policy in Viet Nam and the other countries of Indochina, the so-called "new initiative for peace" of President Nixon merely aims at deceiving public opinion in the world and the US, serving the forthcoming elections in the US, and evading a response to the fair and reasonable proposals made on September 17, 1970 by the SVNR PRG. This "peace" fraud of the Nixon administration does not at all contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Indochinese problem but only serves the scheme to prolong and expand its aggressive war in Indochina.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN sternly condemn and categorically reject the deceptive "peace" proposal made by the Nixon administration. The Government of the DRVN fully agrees to the statements of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front and the PRG of the SVNR, condemning and rejecting this deceptive "peace" proposal..."